

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 10, 2018

Ryan Stevenson
Principal Advisor
Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Edison
8631 Rush St, General Office 4 – 235E (2nd Floor)
Rosemead, CA, 91770

RE: West of Devers Upgrade Project: Minor Project Refinement #21

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

On October 4, 2018, Southern California Edison (SCE) submitted a request for Minor Project Refinement (MPR) #21 for use of existing water source locations, a temporary water tower installation, an access road north of Supersite 3X46-N, and expansion of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19 to support transmission line activities approved under the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Notice to Proceed (NTP) #4, September 5, 2017, in support of the West of Devers Upgrade Project in the Cities of Beaumont, Redlands, Colton, California.

The CPUC voted on August 18, 2016 to approve SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project (Decision D.16-08-017) and a Notice of Determination was submitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH# 2014051041).

The CPUC also adopted a Mitigation, Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (MMCRP) to ensure compliance with all mitigation measures imposed on the West of Devers Upgrade Project during implementation. The MMCRP also acknowledges that temporary changes to the project, such as final project design and engineering or need for addition workspace, are anticipated and common practice for construction efforts of this scale and that a MPR request would be required for these activities. This letter documents the CPUC's thorough evaluation of all activities covered in this MPR, and that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested MPR activities.

MPRs are reviewed for consistency with CEQA requirements and are located within the geographic boundary of the project study area. MPRs do not create new or substantially more severe significant impacts, or conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy. Also, they do not trigger other permit requirements unless the appropriate agency has approved the change, and clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

MPR #21 for use of existing water source locations, a temporary water tower installation, an access road north of Supersite 3X46-N, and expansion of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19 to support transmission line activities (approved under NTP #4) is granted by CPUC based on the factors described below.

SCE MPR Request. Excerpts from the SCE MPR request, received October 4, 2018, is presented below (indented) [brackets for clarification]:

Proposed Project Water Sources

Water trucks will park on public road shoulders adjacent to the six (6) existing water source locations (i.e., hydrants). Only occasional short-term filling of water trucks will occur on public and paved roads, while allowing access to local land uses. No ground disturbance will occur at the water source locations. No impacts to regulated trees, jurisdictional waters, biological, or cultural resources are required for use of the water sources described below:

Hydrant #1 – Potable hydrant supplied by Beaumont-Cherry Valley water District, located on the west side of Desert Lawn Drive, south of Oak Valley Parkway in the City of Beaumont.

Hydrant #2 – Potable hydrant supplied by the city of Redlands, located on the south side of Creekside Drive, east of Alessandro Road in the City of Redlands.

Hydrant #3 – Potable hydrant supplied by the City of Redlands, located on the south side of Creekside Drive, east of Hydrant #2 in the City of Redlands.

Hydrant #4 – Potable hydrant supplied by the City of Colton, located near 1311 South Meadow Lane in the City of Colton.

Hydrant #5 – Potable hydrant supplied by the City of Colton, located near 1101 South Meadow Lane in the City of Colton.

Hydrant #6 – Potable hydrant supplied by the City of Colton, located near 1184 South Meadow Lane in the City of Colton.

All Water Districts/Agencies listed in the FEIR were contacted to determine the availability of non-potable water. Only the City of Redlands provides non-potable water service within the Project Area; however, Redlands' recycled water hydrants are located within the northern portion of Segment 1 and it is not economically or environmentally feasible to haul recycled water to other areas of the West of Devers Project.

Proposed Water Tower Installation

At the non-potable water well located at 13024 San Timoteo Canyon Road in the City of Redlands (approved for project use in MPR #13) an approximately 12,000-gallon portable water tower will be installed temporarily. Above-ground piping will be used to convey water from the existing well to the water tower. Drivers will park under the discharge tube while filling project water trucks in the work area.

The total temporary disturbance area associated with the water tower installation is approximately 6,530 square feet of previously disturbed private land.

Access Road at Supersite 3X46-N

Use of an existing access road located on private property, north of Supersite 3X46-N, is required to minimize grading impacts at the proposed road widening site. The existing access road would provide more direct access to Supersite 3X46 from Smiley Boulevard and minimize the need for grading improvements at Supersite 3X46-N. The existing access road is approximately 290 feet in length by 20 feet in width and runs in a northwest to southeast orientation on previously disturbed land.

Expansion of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19

Expansion of the pull site previously approved in MPR #19, along the existing El Casco access driveway, is necessary for the staging of material and equipment required for wire pulling activities at Supersite 3N01.

The temporary impacts associated with the new work area total 0.12 acre, [located] in Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space.

CPUC Evaluation of MPR Request

In accordance with the MMCRP, the subject MPR request was reviewed by CPUC to confirm that no new impacts or increase in impact severity would result from the requested MPR activities and that the subject request was within the geographic boundary of the Project study area. Additionally, the CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM) conducted a site visit of the requested work areas on October 8, 2018. The following discussion summarizes this analysis for agriculture, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use, noise, paleontological resources, traffic and transportation, visual resources, water resources, and wildland fire. A list of bulleted conditions is presented to define additional information and clarifications regarding mitigation requirements. In some cases, these items exceed the requirements of the Mitigation Measures (MMs) and Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and are based on specific site conditions and/or are proposed conditions by SCE.

Agriculture: No Important Farmland will be impacted with the implementation of this MPR. Much of the area is a disturbed/developed paved and unpaved roads.

Air Quality: During proposed construction, SCE shall implement the Fugitive Dust Control Plan approved by the CPUC on May 22, 2017, as well as the Exhaust Emissions Control Plan approved by CPUC on June 8, 2017. In addition, in compliance with MM AQ-1b, off-road equipment with engines larger than 50 horsepower shall have engines that meet or exceed U.S. EPA/CARB Tier 3 Emissions Standards. No additional impacts to air quality will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Biological Resources: SCE submitted biological resource survey information with the MPR request.

Proposed Project Water Sources

The new water sources are existing hydrants, located within existing disturbed or developed areas. Water trucks will park immediately adjacent to the water sources to fill, using equipped hoses and on-board pumps. No additional ground disturbance will occur. A desktop analysis was conducted for each water source using aerial imagery and project biological data. Some water sources are located adjacent to habitats that may support special-status plants and terrestrial wildlife. Because no ground-disturbance will occur, and water trucks will be positioned on paved surfaces, no impacts to special-status terrestrial wildlife (e.g., burrowing small mammals) or special-status plants are anticipated. All water sources are located adjacent to suitable habitats for nesting birds, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface. The water source locations are situated such that the proposed activities would be conducted from existing disturbed/developed areas. In addition, the act of filling water trucks will be of short duration and similar to baseline conditions (e.g., public traffic, residences). Preconstruction surveys, including surveys for nesting birds during the avian breeding season (Jan 1 – Aug 31) will be conducted prior to use of the water sources and periodic sweeps will be conducted during the avian breeding season.

Proposed Water Tower Installation

Above ground piping will be installed to convey water from the non-potable well to the new water tower in the One Stop Landscaping facility, where water trucks will fill onsite using the approved access roads from San Timoteo Canyon Road and the Segment 3 transmission line right-of-way. The work area was covered in FRED Survey Report ID 000074. Burrowing owl [*Athene cunicularia*] habitat is widespread within and surrounding the area of the proposed water tower. Based on historic occurrences and project survey data, burrowing owls only have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the work area. Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by CDFG Code, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, are located within the work area and vicinity. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted during nesting bird season and impacts to ESAs will be avoided.

Two areas of mapped suitable habitat for Stephens' kangaroo rat [*Dipodomys stephensi*] (SKR) intersect the edge of the survey area boundary. A habitat assessment, pedestrian surveys, and trapping surveys were conducted in 2016, 2017, and 2018 (report pending). No SKR were captured. Based on a lack of historic data, habitat conditions, and negative results over several years of surveys, SKR are not expected.

Two non-wetland jurisdictional water features intersect the existing access road to the north. Water trucks will drive across the jurisdictional features with rubber-tired trucks and avoid refueling within 75-feet of the jurisdictional drainages, thus avoiding impacts.

Proposed Access Road at Supersite 3X46-N

The proposed access road is a recently constructed, existing access road with compacted soils. No improvements to the existing road are required. The access road was covered in FRED Survey Report ID 000082. Burrowing owls have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the work areas associated with the access road; no burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign were observed during surveys. Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by CDFG Code, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, can be found throughout the project area. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted during nesting bird season and impacts to ESAs will be avoided. Since the preconstruction survey was conducted outside the breeding season, no nesting birds were expected. No active bird nests were identified.

A historic coast horned lizard [*Phrynosoma blainvillii*] occurrence is located approximately 300 feet north of Supersite 3X46-N. Because the road is existing and comprised of compacted soils, no special-status herpetofauna, if present in the area, are expected to take shelter beneath the ground surface. Animals crossing the road are expected to scurry away from approaching traffic. Areas of suitable habitat for SKR are mapped within Supersite 3X46-N. A habitat assessment, pedestrian surveys, and then trapping surveys were conducted in the Project Area in 2016, 2017, and 2018 (report pending). No SKR were captured. Based on a lack of historic data, habitat conditions, and negative results over several years of surveys, SKR are not expected. The preconstruction survey focused on identifying sign of SKR. No SKR sign was observed. Special-status small mammals, such as the pallid San Diego pocket mouse [*Perognathus fallax pallidus*], northwestern San Diego pocket mouse [*Perognathus fallax fallax*], American badger [*Taxidea taxus*], desert kit fox [*Vulpes macrotis*], and/or black-tailed jackrabbit [*Lepus californicus*] can occur in many parts of the area. However, if any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the Small Mammals Avoidance and Minimization Plan.

On non-wetland jurisdictional feature intersects Supersite 3X46-N, a second is located approximately 127 feet southeast of Supersite 3X46-N, and a third is located approximately 265 feet east of Supersite 3X46-N. No improvements to the existing road are required. Signs indicating 'no grading, lift blades' or similar will be positioned on each side of the jurisdictional features.

Expansion of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19

The expanded work area for Supersites WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19 was covered in FRED Survey Report ID 000079. Burrowing owls have a moderate potential to occur within 500 feet of the work areas associated with the locations surveyed; no burrowing owls or sign of burrowing owls were observed. Suitable habitat for riparian birds (least Bell's vireo [*Vireo bellii pusillus*; LBVI]/Southwestern willow flycatcher [*Empidonax traillii extimus*; SWFL] is mapped approximately 6 feet north of WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19. This preconstruction survey was conducted outside of the breeding season for LBVI and SWFL. In addition, the wire stringing for which this site is required will be completed outside the breeding season. Suitable substrates for nesting birds protected by CDFG Code, including trees, shrubs, man-made structures, and the ground surface, can be found throughout the project area.

Areas of suitable habitat for SKR are mapped approximately 30 feet south of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19. Based on a lack of historic data, habitat conditions, and negative results over several years of surveys, SKR are not expected. No sign of SKR was observed during the preconstruction survey. Special-status mammals, such as the pallid San Diego pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, American badger, desert kit fox, and/or black-tailed jackrabbit can occur in many parts of the project area. However, if any of these species are found, potential impacts will be addressed according to the small mammals avoidance and minimization plan. No sign of special-status small mammals was observed during the preconstruction survey.

During bat habitat assessments in late July 2018, potential roost sites were identified within the survey area. The ESA buffer around FRED Habitat 000031 intersects Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19. Future emergence surveys are recommended to take place at [this location] during the next active season (February 16 – April 15) or maternity season (March 1 – July 31). On August 13, 2018, CDFW granted SCE with approval to conduct construction activities within bat buffers during the non-breeding season.

The work location addressed by MPR #21 is located in the Western Riverside MSHCP. The smooth tarplant [*Centromadia pungens* ssp. *laevis*] is a Criteria Area Plant Species (CAPS) in the WR-MSHCP and, therefore, “covered” by SCE’s Participating Special Entity (PSE) agreement. Due to the potential for impacts to this species, SCE prepared a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) which, much like the Plan, addresses mitigation for impacts to CAPS. The DBESP was reviewed and approved by the RCA, CDFW, and USFWS. In addition to conducting surveys and outright avoidance, seed collection/seeding, and topsoil salvage are among the potential methods described for the smooth tarplant.

The survey area contains non-wetland and wetland jurisdictional waters. One non-wetland jurisdictional feature travels approximately 33 feet north of WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19. The jurisdictional feature will be protected in place with BMP implementation.

No additional impacts to biological resources are anticipated with the implementation of this MPR.

Cultural Resources: SCE submitted cultural resource information with the MPR request. A Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP; Williams 2016) has been completed for the West of Devers Upgrade Project and was approved by the CPUC in October 2017. In the event of unanticipated discoveries, MM CL-1b, MM CL-1c, MM CL-1d and the CRMP requirements would be implemented.

Proposed Project Water Sources

The proposed water sources are existing hydrants located within existing disturbed and/or developed areas. Only occasional short-term filling of a water truck will occur at each location. Water trucks will park on paved areas immediately adjacent to the water sources using rubber-tired water trucks, and fill using equipped hoses and on-board pumps. Paved access roads will be used to access the existing hydrants. No ground disturbance will occur.

To meet regulatory guidelines detailed in the WOD CRMP (Williams 2016), a record search with the California Historical Resources Information Center (CHRIS) was conducted for all water source work areas. Pedestrian surveys were also conducted. The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources [according to] *Cultural Resources Assessment of Six Newly Identified Water Sources with the APE of the Southern California Edison Company’s West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD), Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California* (Hollins, Jeremy; Chanler, Evelyn. 2018).

Proposed Water Tower Installation

The water tower location was covered in the record search and pedestrian surveys conducted in preparation for MPR #13. The record search and survey results for the area were negative for cultural resources [according

to] *Cultural Resources Assessment of Newly Identified Water Sources within the APE of the Southern California Edison Company's West of Devers Upgrade Project (WOD), Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, California* (Buitenhuys, Connor. 2018).

Proposed Access Road at Supersite 3X46-N and Expansion of Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19

The new access road north of Supersite 3X46-N and the new work area associated with Supersite WSS-4-4N64-MPR-19 are located within the WOD Area of Potential Effect and were covered within the record search data that was conducted during previous WOD surveys and studies. The record search and survey results for the areas were negative for cultural resources [according to] the CRMP (Williams 2016).

No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated with the implementation of this MPR.

Geology and Soils: SCE conducted geotechnical studies to evaluate faults, landslides and unstable slopes, and soil characteristics as outlined in MMs G-1a, G-2a, and G-5a. The geotechnical survey reports were reviewed and approved by the CPUC on August 17, 2017. No additional impacts to geology and soils will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials: As required by MM HH-1a, SCE prepared and submitted a Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan to the CPUC on September 27, 2017. Hazardous materials used and stored on site for the duration of construction activities will be managed according to the Plan. A Soil Management Plan has been developed consistent with MMs HH-2a and HH-3a to provide guidance for the proper handling, onsite management, and disposal of impacted soil that might be encountered during construction activities, including soil samples to be collected in construction areas where the land has historically or is currently being used for agriculture and would be subject to ground disturbance by the project. SCE's Soil Management Plan was combined with the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan described above. Also, SCE's contractor submitted information including written procedures for fueling and maintenance of construction equipment and an Emergency Response Plan. No additional impacts from hazards or hazardous materials will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Land Use: As required by MM LU-1a, a Construction Notification Plan was prepared by SCE and approved by CPUC on May 22, 2017. The Plan identified the procedures to ensure that SCE will inform property and business owners of the location and duration of construction. The Plan includes provisions for public noticing including mailers, newspaper advertisements, public venue notices, and includes the establishment of a public liaison and toll-free information hotline. No additional impacts to land use will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Noise: Best Management Practices for construction noise management will be implemented as outlined in MM N-1a to reduce construction noise exposure at noise-sensitive receptors and to avoid possible violations of local rules, standards, and ordinances during construction. Construction noise shall be confined to daytime, weekday hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) or an alternative schedule developed by SCE based on its coordination with local jurisdiction. Construction traffic and helicopter flights shall be routed away from residences and schools, where feasible. No additional impacts to noise will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Paleontological Resources: A Paleontological Resource Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) has been completed for the West of Devers Upgrade Project and was approved by the CPUC on May 9, 2017. The use of an existing water sources, the existing access road, and additional work area described in this MPR are no different than what was described in NTP #4. In the event of unanticipated discoveries, MM PAL-1d and the PRMMP requirements would be implemented. No additional impacts to paleontological resources will occur with implementation of this MPR.

Traffic and Transportation: Consistent with MM T-1a and MM T-1b, Construction Transportation and Traffic Control Plans have been developed and approved. The Construction Transportation Plan describes timing of commutes, methods of reducing crew-related traffic, and other methods for reducing construction-generated additional traffic on regional and local roadways. No additional impacts to traffic and transportation will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Visual Resources: The use of existing water sources, an existing access road, and additional work area described in this MPR are no different than what was described in NTP #4 and are temporary. No additional impacts to visual resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Water Resources: As required by MM WR-2a, SCE developed and submitted an Erosion Control Plan to the CPUC and BLM. The Erosion Control Plan was incorporated into the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which will be kept onsite and readily available on request. SCE submitted the SWPPP to the CPUC on May 25, 2017. Any changes necessitated by this MPR will be incorporated into the SWPPP document. No additional impacts to water resources will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

Wildland Fire: SCE submitted a Fire Management Plan on February 10, 2017 to satisfy the conditions of MM WF-1a and the Plan was approved by the CPUC on July 18, 2017. This Fire Management Plan has been submitted to local fire departments. The existing water sources and existing access road described in this MPR are located along developed and disturbed areas. No additional impacts to wildland fire will occur with the implementation of this MPR.

The conditions noted below shall be met by SCE and its contractors:

- SCE shall provide the CPUC with Collector data for the new work areas covered in this MPR prior to the start of construction activities.
- SCE shall implement the DBESP approved by the RCA, CDFW, and USFWS.
- All applicable Project MMs, APMs, compliance plans, and permit conditions shall be implemented. Some measures have on-going/time-sensitive requirements and shall be implemented prior to and during construction where applicable.
- Copies of all relevant permits, compliance plans, and this MPR shall be available on site for the duration of construction activities. All permits and plans shall be made available to the CPUC EM upon request.
- SCE will conduct pre-construction surveys prior to construction, including surveys for nesting birds from January 1 to August 31. If special-status resources are identified, SCE will implement the applicable mitigation measures and/or permit conditions, as determined in coordination with the CPUC, BLM, CDFW, USFWS, or other applicable regulatory agencies. In addition, a Biological Monitor will conduct spot check sweeps weekly thereafter.
- All crew members shall be WEAP trained prior to working on the Project. A log shall be maintained on-site with the names of all crew personnel trained. The WEAP training brochure can be provided in Spanish or other languages if appropriate. All participants will receive a hard-hat sticker for ease of compliance verification.
- No movement or staging of construction vehicles or equipment shall be allowed outside of the approved areas. If additional temporary workspace areas or access routes, or changes in technique and mitigation implementation to a lesser level are required, a MPR request shall be submitted for CPUC review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billie Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Billie Blanchard
CPUC Environmental Project Manager

cc: V. Strong, Aspen